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mission may be impracticable, but it certainly is needed. The picture of the once victorious Balkan States acting now as beggars, struggling to build up again their lost resources, with their cripples, ruins, sufferings, immorality, and poverty, is distressing enough.

The origin of the two Balkan wars, the behavior of the Bulgarians, Turks, and Servians toward each other, and the economic results of the wars are supported by many documents found in the appendices. In the place of an index, unfortunately omitted, there is at the end of the book an analysis of each of the chapters.

THE UNITED STATES AND PEACE. By William Howard Taft. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons. 1914. 182 pp. Price, \$1.00 net.

This volume contains the four addresses delivered by Ex-President Taft in New York in the winter of 1913, under the auspices of the New York Peace Society. The lectures were also published at the same time in *The Independent*. The first chapter treats of the limitations and implications of the Monroe Doctrine; the second of aliens and their treaty rights. Chapter III, "Arbitration Treaties that Mean Something," refutes the Senate's claim that it has not power to consent to treaties of general arbitration. In Chapter IV Mr. Taft discusses the history of experiments in world federation. There is a foreword by Hamilton Holt, in which he calls the volume a "declaration of interdependence." The wide knowledge and experience of the author make all that he has to say of unusual interest and value.

THE COMING PEOPLE. By Charles F. Dole. Boston: The World Peace Foundation. 1914. 224 pages. Seventh edition. Paper bound. Price, 35 cents.

This little volume was first issued in 1897, and is now taken over by the World Peace Foundation as one of its series. The author has added a new chapter on "The Coming World Order," in which he shows that a truly civilized fellowship of all the peoples of the world is the normal outcome of the processes he has traced in the preceding chapters. He describes the actual movements of the present toward this conclusion, the necessity for it, and the irresistible forces uniting to bring it about.

THE WORLD SET FREE. By H. G. Wells. E. P. Dutton & Co. 1914. 308 pp. \$1.35 net.

H. G. Wells, with keen prophetic vision, has seen the world in reaction after a cheap, unlimited energy has been launched upon it. "The World Set Free" is a novel without a hero, and without a plot in the ordinary sense. The action of the romance is centered about the radioactivity of the atom, and the purpose is to show this energy fitted into its right place and the world readjusted after a narrow escape from annihilation through its force. In a series of word pictures he shows us first a body of students of science aware of the hidden energy of the atom locked up in solids, but entirely unable to get at the secret of its control. Finally comes a man who "picked this lock" and released upon the world a "power such that a man might carry in his hand enough energy to light a city for a year." Foolishly the force is utilized to make a new destructive imple-

ment of war, the atomic bomb; not an instantaneous explosive, but a continuous one. With this awful weapon in the hands of man, a "grave international situation" is announced, a world-wide war breaks out, and chaos results. Bombs hurled from aeroplanes into the heart of the greatest cities melt all the grandeur of ages into a volcanic mass. Out of this grave situation the world is brought by the establishment of a world government. In the final chapter we see this government established on a permanent basis, and flashes are thrown on the new Utopia, in which all economic and social problems have been solved.

All this is a vision seen by Mr. Wells, but one might imagine it to be the history which will be read a century or more hence; or, better still, one might hope that it would arouse the world to the futility of such widespread destruction to reach an ideal.

EFFETS ÉCONOMIQUES DE LA MOBILISATION AUSTRO-HONGROISE. By Raphael-Georges Lévy. Paris: Félix Alcan, 108 Boulevard Saint-Germain. 1914. 66 pages. Price, 1 fr. 50 (30 cents).

This is one of the publications of the Institut International de la Paix. It was written in 1913 to show the effects which fear of war may have on the economic condition of a country, and the economic disturbance caused by excessive armaments. The author reminds his readers of the old adage that sometimes the fear of evil is worse than the evil itself, and that the consequences of a panic which subsequent events prove to have been unjustified may be extremely grave. He discusses the effect of the spending of millions on the mobilization of the army, the taking of men from productive work, the effect on credit of the fear of war, and the like.

POEMS OF HUMAN PROGRESS. By James Harcourt West. Cloth, gilt top. 328 pages. \$1.50 net. Boston: The Tufts College Press. 1914.

In addition to about seventy new poems, this volume by Mr. West contains practically the whole of his previous book, "The Ninth Paradise." The two longest are the Tufts College Phi Beta Kappa poem, "Man's Triumph Era," and "The Epic of Man," read in 1908 before the forty-first annual meeting of the Free Religious Association of America. In this latter work occur these strong lines:

"Still pray for peace and still rear battleships?
Nay, brothers, if ye long for beauteous peace,
Beseech no more the seven-fold silent heavens
While still up-piling armaments of death;
But you yourselves bring peace—by brotherhood!"

Mr. West, who may not be known to many of our readers, is a publisher, author, and Unitarian minister. He was the founder of the *New Ideal Magazine*, is a member of the editorial board of *Unity*, and secretary of the Free Religious Association of America. Some of the poems of nature are exquisitely conceived, while many of the sonnets are worthy of high rank. The humanitarian element is strong in all the productions, and there are many stirring appeals for the brotherhood of man and the casting aside of war. The poems are written with vigor, originality, loftiness of thought, and felicity of diction.